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Message Text

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11
ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SS-20 NSC-07 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-10

NSAE-00 PA-04 RSC-01 USIA-15 PRS-01 SPC-03 DRC-01

SSO-00 INRE-00 NSCE-00 (ISO) W
---------- 048776
O R 090911Z MAR 74
FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2505
AMEMBASSY MANILA IMMEDIATE
INFO AMCONSUL NHA TRANG
AMCONSUL BIEN HOA
AMCONSUL DANANG
AMCONSUL CAN THO
USDEL JEC PARIS
CINCPAC FOR POLAD

UNCLAS SAIGON 3144

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PFOR, PINS, MILI, VS

REF: A) MANILA 2708 (DEPTO 069) UNCLAS

MANILA FOR DEP SEC RUSH

1. TWENTY ONE SAIGON PAPES (VIETNAMESE AND CHINESE) PRINTED RUSH ARRIVAL STORY (ALL BUT THREE WERE REPRINTS OF A USIS RELEASE WITH BIO-DATA AND RUSH COMMENT BASED ON EPF-3, IPS FILE $34 OF FEB. 19). RUSH DEPARTURE STATEMENT(FORWARDED IN REF A) WAS PUBLISHED IN SIXTEEN PAPERS. VIETNAM PRESS, SEMI-OFFICIAL NEWS AGENCY, AND DAILY BUT THEP(CIRC. 18,000) BOTH PRINTED A LONG USIS RELEASE OF RUSH'S REMARKS IN CLEVELAND ON THE U.S. AND ASIAN NATIONS. ARRIVAL AND DEPARTURE PHOTOS WERE FEATURED IN 17 DAILIES.

2. EIGHT PAPERS PUBLISHED EDITORIAL COMMENT ON THE VISIT. IN A FRONT-PAGE FULL SPREAD EXCLUSIVE INTERVIEW WITH PAUL HARE,
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CHINH LUAN, SAIGON'S MOST RESPECTED DAILY (CIRC. 18,000)? BEGAN

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BY NOTING AGREEMENT BEFOREHAND BY MR. HARE THAT HIS ANSWERS WOULD"REFLECT USG OFFICIAL VIEWPOINT". HARE FIRST NOTED THAT RVN'S DIPLOMATIC AND POLITICAL EFFORTS HAD" SCORED MANY SUCCESSES," THAT THE PRESENT DIFFICULTIES OF SOUTH VIETNAM WERE A CHALLENGE TO ITS PEOPLE, BUT THAT WITH "ADEQUATE ASSISTANCE FROM ABROAD SVN WILL OVERCOME THE DIFFICULTIES AND HOLD ON."

ASKED IF THE USG HAD A "BARGAIN" WITH HANOI TO LESSEN ECONOMIC AID TO RVN IF NVN WOULD DE-ESCALATE MILITARY PRESSURE, HARE ANWERED, "I ASSERT CATEGORICALLY THAT NO SUCH QUID-PRO-QUO EXISTS," ADDING THAT BECAUSE NVN HAS CONTINOUSLY VIOLATED THE PARIS AGREEMENT, THE PROVISION DEALING WITH AID TO NVN CANNOT BE IMPLE-MENTED. "AS FAR AS SVN IS CONCERNED", HE CONTINUED, "THE U.S. WILL OBSERVE ITS COMMITMENTS--WITHIN THE FRAMEWORK OF THE AGREEMENT." THE USG IS ENCOURAGING MULTINATIONAL AID TO RVN, HE SAID, AND "THERE IS NO REASON SVN SHOULD NOT SUCCEED IN THE ECONOMIC FIELD."

ASKEC WHY THE USG DID NOT REACT IN THE MATTER OF THE PARACELS, HARE ANSWERED WITH THE STANDARD THREE-POINT POLICY STATEMENT.

3. AN EDITORIAL IN THE SAME ISSUE OF CHINH LUAN POINTED OUT THAT THE USG HAS REALLY FAILED TO TAKE THE LEAD IN BUILDING AN INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION TO AID SVN RECONSTRUCTION. QUOTING GARE'S OPINION THAT DEVELOPMENT EFFORTS AMONG INDOCHINA NATIONS SEEM TO BE AT A LOW EBB, THE EDITORIAL ASKED, "WHERE IS THE ACTION" TO COUNTER SUCH A SLUMP?

4. DAN LUAN (CIRC. C5,000) EDITORIALIZED THAT ALTHOUGH SOME SE ASIAN OBSERVERS THINK THE PURPOSE OF RUSH'S TRIP IS TO "REASSERT ONCE MORE THE NIXON ADMINISTRATION'S DETERMINATION TO SUPPORT ITS ALLIES IN SE ASIA," IT CAN BE UNDERSTOOD THAT THIS COMMITMENT "WILL BE OF VALUE" ONLY IF THE RVN CAN BE "PROVE THAT THERE IS PROGRESS IN ALL FIELDS IN SVN."

5. AS USUAL, SEVERAL PAPERS SEE IN THE VISIT BY A U.S. OFFICIAL AN INDICATION OF AN IMPORTANT TURNING POINT IN U.S. RVN RELATIONS. CONG LUAN(CIRC. C10,000) SUGGESTED THAT RUSH'S IDEAS ARE REALLY HAK'S AND THAT "1974 CAN BE UNCLASSIFIED

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VIEWED AS A NEW PHASE OF THE IMPORTANT EXPERIMENT BEING CONDUCTED BY THAT U.S. DIPLOMAT FOR THE PAST FIVE YEARS." BUT THEP INTERPRETED THE RUSH TRIP TO MEAN THERE WILL BE "A NEW U.S. PLAN" TO CREATE CONDITIONS FAVORABLE FOR PEACE-TIME ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT." AND SONG THAN (CIRC. C14,000) POINTED OUT THAT THE VISIT FORETELLS FUTURE ACTIVITIES OF MR. KISSINGER IN THIS REGION."

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6. IN PARAPHRASING SOME OF RUSH'S IDEAS GVN RADIO EMPHASIZED THE STATEMENT THAT HANOI HAS NOT OBSERVED THE PARIS AGREEMENT. OTHERWISE IT SIMPLY MENTIONED THE DEPUTY'S VISIT WITH PRESIDENT THIEU AND OTHER GVN LEADERS. IN ITS EVENING NEWSCAST ON WEDNESDAY, MARCH 6, GVN-TV USED USIS-FURNISHED ARRIVAL PHOTOS, AND ON THURSDAY SHOWED ITS OWN FOOTAGE OF THE VISIT WITH PRESIDENT THIEU.

ALTHOUGH GVN RADIO AND TV COMMENT OF THE VISIT HAS SO FAR BEEN SLIGHT, OFTEN THERE IS EDITORIAL DISCUSSION OF SUCH AN EVENT A CONSIDERABLE LENGTH OF TIME AFTER THE FACT.
MARTIN

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